

**Abstract**

A method and apparatus is described which allows the determination of volume types of storage media residing in a computer system, where the volumes are managed using a Logical Disk Manager. This is achieved without analysing the LDM database which is conventionally stored in the last 1Mb of each hard disk. The method according to the invention operates by inferring the volume type based on specific external and measurable characteristics of the volume and the disk on which it resides. Preferably, the characteristics used include the existence of an indicating string in the volume symbolic name and the way in which the volume occupies each LUN. That is, there are a specific number of volume types allowed, the disk extents of a simple volume can lie on only one disk and the sum of all disk extents of a mirrored/RAID volume exceeds the actual usable size of the volume. Thus the volume type can be determined indirectly and quickly. This information is used in volume creation/management.